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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Masahiro KAWASAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2851

Appln. No. : 09/955,089

Filed : September 19, 2001

For : ZOOM FLASH AND FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY SYSTEM

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98,

Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-54352, which was published on February 25, 1997, along with English language patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,067,422 to TOKUNAGA et al., which issued on May 23, 2000;

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/531,476 to NUMAKO et al., entitled "External Flash Control System", which was filed on March 20, 2000;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/955,163 to KAWASAKI et al., entitled "Multi-Flash Photography System", which was filed on September 19, 2001;

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/955,145 to KAWASAKI et al., entitled "Flash Photography System", which was filed on September 19, 2001; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/955,208 to KAWASAKI et al., entitled "Flash Photography System", which was filed on September 19, 2001.

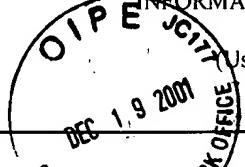
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Masahiro KAWASAKI

December 18, 2001  
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office						Atty. Docket No. P21042		Serial No. 09/955,089		
 <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <small>(Use several sheets if necessary)</small>								Applicant Masahiro KAWASAKI et al.				
								Filing Date September 19, 2001		Group 2851		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>												
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER						DATE	NAME		CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6	0	6	7	4	2	2	05/23/00	TOKUNAGA et al.			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>												
	DOCUMENT NUMBER						DATE	COUNTRY		CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES      NO
	9	-	5	4	3	5	2	02/25/97	JAPAN			
<b>OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>												
EXAMINER								DATE CONSIDERED				
<small>*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small>												